Our Chapter: 1968-2006

MARICOPA

AUDUBON

Jim Burns
The Maricopa Audubon Society: 1968-2006

This is the second publication about the history of the Maricopa Audubon Society. It follows the first book covering our chapter’s early history from 1953 to 1968.

Robert K. Turner

This book is dedicated with respect and gratitude to our chapter’s Intermountain States Regional Representative and Vice-President, Robert K. Turner who guided our chapter from 1970 to 1996.

Published Phoenix, Arizona, 2006

Copies of this document may be obtained from:
The Maricopa Audubon Society, P.O Box 25451, Phoenix, AZ 85060
Forward

Robert K. Turner was our chapter’s intermountain NAS Regional Representative and Vice President from 1970 to 1996. Bob provided our chapter with wisdom, guidance and encouragement for protecting our state’s vulnerable environments. He was unique in his ability to organize meaningful intermountain state, Arizona, and National Audubon conventions.

Bob understood what birdwatching was. He spoke our language. Now in non-retirement, Bob leads birding trips worldwide. Like the founders of our Audubon Society who changed the law allowing bird feathers on hats, and sent fearless game wardens to protect heron rookeries, Bob’s habitat protection convictions were an inspiration to us here in Arizona and the intermountain west.

Thanks to Laurie Nessel who designed this book’s cover to match Jack Wetmore’s 1953-1968 cover. Thanks to Jim Burns for the Cactus Wren photo on the cover.

It is also a privilege to include our thanks and praise for those many organizations and individuals who have tirelessly supported the efforts to protect Arizona’s fragile environments including: the National Audubon Society, Arizona’s Audubon chapters, the National Wildlife Federation, Sierra Club, Defenders of Wildlife, Wilderness Society, Friends of the Earth, Center for Biological Diversity, Elvis Stahr, Russ Peterson, Rupert Cutler, Charles Callison, Peter Berle, John Flicker, Ed Osann, Brock Evans, Charlene Dougherty, John Fitzgerald, Dan Beard, Liz Raisbeck, Gene Knoder, Scotty Johnson, Steve Sedam, Ron Klatake, Glen Olson, Dede Armentrout, Paul Howard, Brent Blackwelder, Ann Graham, Ollie Houck, Frank Welsh, Gil Venable, Dave Campbell, Tom Powers, Dixie Davis, Carolina Butler, Rob Smith, Joni Bosh, Scott Burge, Charles Babbitt, Monica Szostak, Bill and Sue Ahearn, Ron Schilling, Kevin Dahl, Tom Danielsen, Jack Simon, Mike Perkinson, Ace Peterson, Jerome Pratt, Bob Croft, Don Farmer, Anita MacFarlane, Mac MacFarlane, Steve Gallizioli, Michael Nixon, Mark Hullinger, Jim Breck, Bob Waltman, Bill Butler, Hiawatha Hood, David Hodges, Kimberly Williams, Norman Austin, Wendslwer Nosi, Christina Butler, Steve Devereux, Chris Sheffield, Lee Kohlhase, Shane Jimerfield, Rod Mondt, Nancy Zierenberg, Jean Eisenhower, Connie Mahan, John McComb, Ola Cassadore Davis, Keith Basso, Elizabeth Brandt, Scott and Lee Burge, Charles and Sue Monroe, Elaine Mayer, Dan Schreiber, Clemens Titzck, Eleanor Zoellner, Robert Norton, Gene Bauer, Ann Anderson, Peggy Spaw, Lois Becker, Jim Becker, Herb Fibel, Tony Anthony, Richard and Karen Kaiser, Patricia Beal, Ruth Patterson, Richard Todd, Robin Silver, Kieran Suckling, Ruth Russell, George Pickard, Edward Chalif, James Stowe, Carroll Peabody, Linnea Holland, Mary Schreiber, Hiram Parent, Alma Williams, Sharon Galbreath, Anne Carl, Deva and Jim Burns, John Welch, Michael Nixon, Eric Glitzenstein, Chris Gelcker, Paul Hirt, Peter Herkenrath, Elizabeth and Jerry Hatcher, Joel Helfrich, Sky Jacobs, Anka Kramer, Winona LaDuke, Mary Reinthal, Lucile Rice, Paul Nellen, Naomi Mudge, John Patterson, Brenda Norrell, Paul Nosis, Brian Nowicki, Peter Galvin, Giovanni Panza, Carol Owens, Pam Pawlak, Bob Perciasepe, Paul Pierce, Laurie Nessel, Peter Warshall, Sandra Rambler, Theodor Rathgeber, Martina Roels, Wiltrud Roesch-Mesatzler, Ron Sell, Bob Rhodes, Paul Roland, Burnette Rope, Sr., Mike and Terry Seidman, Tim Ryan, Theona Vyvial, Bob Robb, Tom Slaback, David Yetman, Jim Sell, Mary Cosaboom, Steve Boyd, Brian Evans, David Weary and too many others to fit into this document.
Norton, Janet and Bob Witteken, this time without our children. A fine opportunity to study the juvenile to adult plumage changes of the passerine jaeger (not seen in the bird books) was provided from the specimens collected at the bow of the boat. Likewise the dark-rumped and Light-rumped Leach's petrel were better observed in the hand than thru the glass.

The beautiful Sabine's gull was abundant and easy to view. More difficult viewing were had of the parasitic jaeger and Craveri's murrelet. All the previously mentioned species seen on the bird trip were also seen on the September trip with the exception of the pale-footed shearwater.

The sky was overcast and many lost and exhausted migrating passerines (mostly warblers) landed on the deck. A few individuals who were too tired or frightened to land on our boat and dropped exhausted into the sea at the stern.

THE SEPTEMBER 21st FIELD TRIP.

Much to the leader's surprise, twenty-four persons turned out at the unfashionable hour of 6AM for the September 21st shorebird tour of some of the less well known scenic spots in the valley. Visited were the sewage lagoon at 35th Avenue, 95th Ave at the old Dunes City, as well as the Arrowhead Ranch ponds. A good selection of waterfowl was seen but the outstanding find was a landbird. At the largest of the Arrowhead Ranch ponds on a small log overhanging the water a large sparrow sized bird with a yellow chest posed obligingly for 15 minutes while it was studied from a 40 foot distance thru binoculars and telescopes. With careful study of the bird and the guides, it was obvious that the strongly streaked head, the streaked back and chesty wash across the upper chest indicated that we were observing a relatively bright fall Bobolink. This is probably the first sight record of the Bobolink for Maricopa County. Bobolinks are rare fall migrants in extreme western Arizona (Birds of Arizona, Phillips, Marshall and Monson) and a small breeding colony was found near Show Low in 1937 (Birds of Arizona) and a pair near Snowflake this past year (personal observation).

The 50 species seen on the trip were: Pied-billed Grebe (2), Great Blue Heron (1), Common Egret (2), Green Heron (1), Paint (1), Snow (1), Mottled Sculpin (4), Red-tailed Hawk (1), Turkey Vulture (6), Goshawk (1), American Coot (2), Semi-palmated Plover (2), Spotted Sandpiper (1), Yellowlegs (3), Baird's Sandpiper (10), Least Sandpiper, Long-billed Dowitcher (4), Western Sandpiper (20), American Avocet (20), Black-necked Stilt (15), Wilson's Phalarope (20), Northern Pintail (4), Nouring Dow (4), Least Tern (1), Forsters Tern (7), Swallow (2), Snowy Owl (8), Western Kingbird (3), Black Robin (1), Tree Swallow (1), Bank Swallow (hard to differentiate from the usually much more common immature Tree Swallow but the complete breeder's band was well seen on several), Rough-winged Swallow (2), Barn Swallow (200), Cliff Swallow (1), Loggerhead Shrike (4), Starling, House Sparrow, Bobwhite, Western Meadowlark (1), Yellow-headed Blackbird, Redwinged Blackbird, Brewer's Blackbird, Common Grackle (1), Lark Bunting (1), House Finch, Green-tailed Towhee (1), Savannah Sparrow (1), Field Sparrow (1), Lincoln's Sparrow (3), Bob Norton, Leader (Co-leaders Bob Witteken, Janet Witteken, Dix Desmaret)

CONSERVATION CLUE
From Clem Titzick & Peggy Spav

The last three weeks of September have been constructive days for the cause of conservation.
1. The U.S. CONGRESS passed the Wilderness Act. The new great trees are secured for all generations.
2. The North Cascade (67,000 acres) is similarly secured by an act of Congress.
3. The Great Swamp (3,700 acres), Mr. Jefferson in Oregon, and Biscayne Bay National Monuments are now taken into our National Wilderness System.

Mrs. Alice Shultz, Secretary of the Maricopa Audubon Society is the new alternate representative to the Conservation Council. She replaces Clem Titzick who is replacing him in this assignment. A public-minded, skilled teacher of biology, Alice is also serving the interests of the Audubon philosophy as a member of the Superintendent's new teachers' council on conservation curriculum.

Before November 1st, write your approval of the proposed classifications of Parks Canyon Wetland Area to: Mr. Fred J. Walker, Director, BLM: 3052 Federal Building, Phoenix, (602) 256-3813. Audubon was well represented at recent public hearings on the proposed classification of these lands.

Notice has been received from the National Parks Department that the Chiricahua National Monument (Wilcox area) has been scheduled for the proposed wilderness review. The public hearing on this is set for November 5, 1968 in Wilcox. Our Audubon Society will be positively represented through the Conservation Council.
Official Publication of the Maricopa Audubon Society

SEPTEMBER - 1969... Volume XVII - Number Seven - Price $3.00 per year.

OUR GREATEST OPPORTUNITY - TO TEACH THE LOVE OF NATURE

SEPTEMBER OUTING...

Our Program Chairman, Mrs. Elaine Mayer, has set Tuesday, Sept. 9th for our regular September outing to be held at Squaw Peak Park from 5:30 P.M. - Ramada - Apache, Tables 1 and 2. An informal Pot Luck supper will be had and we would remind you to bring your own utensils.

SCREEN TOURS EDUCATIONAL...

The combined effort of all members of our society is obligatory in the chief educational effort we provide in the sponsoring of AUDUBON SCREEN TOURS. These programs have been increasingly interesting and informative and the Phoenix public is patronizing them more and more. Certainly any member should support them. Last year's programs were "TOP-BRACKET" and this year's series are likewise exceptional. Below are the program dates with the names of presenters and their subjects. All of the programs are held at Phoenix College Auditorium, Thomas Road. Ample parking space conveniently located is now provided, and thanks to the Ballock's, she is using 1 1/2 quarts water that each member bring. We wish to thank Bix Desmarre, Eleanor Radke and Fletcher Sillick for this field trip.

Bob and Janet Witzman, Leaders.

FIELD OBSERVATIONS...

May 4 - Bix Desmarre saw two Black Vultures on South 51st Ave. near St. John's Indian Mission.

May 6 & 7 - Eleanor Radke reported that large flocks of Violet Green Swallows passed through Cave Creek.

May 8 - Fred Miller saw 28 Forster's Terns at the Sun City Sewage Pond.

May 10 - Bix Desmarre reported that the Avocet nest at the 35th Ave. Pond was flooded out.

May 14 - Bix Desmarre and Eleanor Radke found a Zone-tailed Hawk nest at Camp Creek, the same day they saw an Elf Owl in Backenstose Gulch.

May 31 - Bix Desmarre reported a late Avocet, four Snowy Egrets and three young Stilts at the 35th Ave. Pond.

June 18 - Bix Desmarre and Eleanor Radke found a Gray Vireo at Seven Springs. It has not been reported in Seven Springs before. They also found a nesting Bush Tit at Backenstose Gulch, a Black Phoebe with young and a nesting Bewick's Wren at Camp Creek; a Bridled Titmouse feeding young, and a nesting Western Wood Peewee at Seven Springs. There was at least one young Zone-tailed Hawk in the nest at Camp Creek. They also saw a Bell's Vireo feeding a baby Cowbird.

In early June, 5 members of WAS took part in a breeding bird census conducted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The Desmarres did a census for 25 miles on the road from Zeniss to northeast of Heber. Bob Norton's census was 25 miles from east of Snowflake to Hunt. The Witzman's 25 mile census was on the road from House Rock (near Jacob Lake) north toward the Utah border. This was the second year this census has been conducted in the West.

In addition to these birds seen, Pres. Titzck and Ellis Jones - (also a member of the Tucson society) reported seeing a BUFF BREASTED FINCH at Ramsey Canyon - May 25th in bright sunlight at a distance of thirty-five feet - and were afforded a lengthy study of the bird through binoculars. This rare sighting was positively identified after a lengthy and close study of this BUFF BREASTED FINCH, which is a rare bird in the area.

SEVEN SPRINGS MAY 31st...

Pres. Titzck, Ellis Jones and William Putey report the following birds seen on a trip...
THE ROADRUNNER

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SEPTEMBER - 1970

VOLUME XV

BRIGHTER SEVEN - Price $3.00 per year

OUR GREATEST OPPORTUNITY - TO TEACH THE LOVE OF NATURE

THE SEPTEMBER MEETING

will be held at North Mountain Park, Area 5, at 6:00 P.M., Tuesday - Sept. 13th, when a pot-luck meal has been planned. The purpose of the usual first meeting in September is social. Bring food and utensils for the pot-luck.

FIRST FIELD TRIP...

Field trip from Burch has set Saturday, Sept. 12th for the first field trip of the season, which will be to the ponds of southwestern Phoenix. Many birds unusual in our desert area are often seen at these ponds, and this trip promises to be most interesting. Dick Tod will be the leader. Meet at northeast corner of 35th Ave. and Van Buren at 6:00 A.M. and bring a lunch. (Dick's note) in the first days of '70, early morning for field trips were the practice, because it is a well-known fact that by using earlier hours, more birds are seen.

JUNE CUTOUTS...

JUNE 24 - June outing at Shangri-La Acres, most of the folks say a GIANT MONSTER who didn't see a bit afraid. The outing was attended by about fifty with Pres. Titch in charge, who reviewed much of the conservation work currently supported. Every Spew reported on their trip to Washington, where she represented US, as well as the Wilderness Society, in an effort to secure important legislation concerning wilderness areas proposed for Arizona. All attendants gave several accounts of work in conservation, and Richard Tod reported attending the Hot air Balloon Convention at Seattle in May.

The food of the Pot-Luck, in charge of Corinela Crawford, was most delectable and very appetizing. William Petez recited the epic poem about Wimereau Indians of Wisconsin, and also read humorous verses regarding the bird suffering as known as the "HAIL BAGEL". Thanks to the efforts of Robert Snoddy and the Conservation Federally sponsored nature program in Phoenix, FRED AUBIN is provided to all of the programs. A vast parking area next to the spacious auditorium, followed by lectures and speakers together with dates are given:

Wednesday, October 21st - Albert B. Wool "CALIFORNIA";
Wednesday, November 18th - John Barstow "CENTRAL CALIFORNIA - CENTRAL FLATS";
Tuesday, December 6th - Walter A. Mott "BIRDS OF HABITAT";
January 27th - Robert Fuhr "ACADIAN REFUGION";
February 23rd - John D. Bulger "SKEINS - MOUNTAINS TO THE SEA". Time - 7:45 for each program.

NOW COMES THE RAIN!!

We have just read July Audubon magazine's article on a FOLIATED EARTH. Man CAN DO THE NECESSARY - and do it NOW. If he does not, Dr. Albert Schweitzer's prediction "THAT MAN WILL DESTROY THE EARTH" seems imminent.

OUR SOCIETY EXTENDS ITS THANKS...

To Mr. & Mrs. Lasson Eiven in the passing of Lasson's mother, Mrs. Margorie C. Eiven of Phoenix. Also to Floyd A. Thompson of Phoenix whose wife Nettie is also deceased.

HIGH-SCOTT JR.
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Bix Demaree honored

Page 4

May 23 - 2 Black-bellied Tree Ducks at 33rd Ave. Pond - B. Dursch.
May 24 - 3 Black Vultures and a Rectangular Sandpiper at the 33rd Ave. in the Salt River Wash. Dick Tod.
May 31 - An adult male 33rd Ave. in the Salt River Wash. Dick Tod.
June 1 - A Prairie Falcon and a Lesser Black-backed Gull at the 33rd Ave. Pond - B. Burch and R. Demaree.
June 2 - A Prairie Falcon and 106 Black-bellied Tree Ducks at the 33rd Ave. Pond - B. Dursch and R. Demaree.
June 3 - A Red-tailed Hawk at the 33rd Ave. Pond - B. Demaree and R. Dursch.
June 9 - An immature Red-tailed Hawk at Centennial Wash, east of Phoenix; probably farther west than it has ever been found in Arizona. - B. Tod.
June 10 - A Red-tailed Hawk at the 33rd Ave. Pond - B. Tod.
June 14 - A Red-tailed Hawk at the 33rd Ave. Pond - B. Demaree and R. Burch.
June 28 - A young little Blue Heron was observed as well as the adult. - B. Burch.
July 27 - A pair of Zone-tailed Hawks and a pair of Black Hawks, both found north of Phoenix. - July 15 the Black Hawks were observed with one young, and one Zone-tailed Hawk had just left its nest. - B. Demaree and R. Burch.
July 30 - A Prairie Falcon and 10 Red-tailed Hawks along the Salt River Wash. - B. Burch and R. Demaree.
July 30 - 2 light-billed Buzzards; 1 Black Tern, and 1 Wilson's Phalarope at 33rd Ave. Pond. - B. Tod.
July 31 - 2 Light-billed Buzzards; 1 Black Tern, and 1 Wilson's Phalarope at 33rd Ave. Pond. - B. Tod.
July 31 - A Red-tailed Hawk at 33rd Ave. Pond. - B. Tod.
August 27 - A young little Blue Heron was observed as well as the adult. - B. Burch.
September 16 - A Red-tailed Hawk at the 33rd Ave. Pond - B. Tod.
September 23 - A Red-tailed Hawk at the 33rd Ave. Pond - B. Tod.
September 29 - A Red-tailed Hawk at the 33rd Ave. Pond - B. Tod.

Mrs. DAVID DEMAREE HONORED...

From childhood, Bix Demaree has been vitally interested in ornithology. Her physician father of Vermont spent a lifetime in the study of birds, and his daughter accompanied him in bird watching trips for many years. In this Valley of the Sun, she has made a worthy contribution to conservation with trips, Christmas Count data, and a valuable part in the educational work of the Audubon of which she is Educational Chairman.

The Wilson Society, whose publication, the "Wilson Bulletin" is known throughout the nation. Her work and study with the Black Chinned Hummingbird, regarding the perches, location, feeding and nesting has been for the Wilson Bulletin. It is said that it is not written this year, but it goes to say that man now rises above the physical, and even the mental, to his spiritual potential, he may be a green and

PROGRESS...

Scientists tell of ancient huge animals who dominated the earth 150 million years ago, as revealed by the skeleton. Maybe it's a good thing to have a short span of life for mankind, which we have not the rapid progress. And again, some of our wisest men are in agreement, and that our 'mistaken wisdom' will result in the destruction of our environment, and include mankind. The great 'LIVESTOCK' will tell... We do it a great joy to say that if man now rises above the physical, and even the mental, to his spiritual potential, he may be a green and

AUGUST NATURE PROGRAM...

William Petez and Lloyd Shuteletter appeared before the INDIAN CLUB of business and professional women at the 1st Presbyterian Church, 4th Ave. and Monroe, Tuesday, June 16th, showing slides of Arizona birds of the accompanying nature talk...

ADVERTISING CONTROL...

An INDIAN bill to take effect immediately was signed in June, whereby all OUTDOOR advertising within 1000 feet of the Interstate, primary, and secondary highways, except within certain designated areas, are PROHIBITED.

YOUTH'S PRESIDENTIAL...

Membership is a luxury of self-conscious and SELF-EMPHASIZED YOUTH. Goethe said - "No man is a pessimist after THIRTY and hardly before twenty. Youth finds the realities of life and years FOR MOTHER." Goethe believed that youth tries to ESCAPE realities, and tries to evade to escape the harsh ways of growing development, and with the freedom of choice, Youth often seeks the EASY way.
THE ROADRUNNER

FROM... Wm. H. Patey, Editor 111 E. Royal Palm Rd., Phoenix, Arizona 85020 Tel. 943-7880

Official Publication of the Maricopa Audubon Society JUNE - 1971...Volume XVIII...Number Six - Price $3.00 per year

OUR GREATEST OPPORTUNITY - TO TEACH THE LOVE OF NATURE

THE ANNUAL MEETING

May 4th was well attended and the slate prepared by the MAS nominating committee was elected and the following officers will serve during the '71- '72 year: President, Marshall Whitmore, Vice Pres. Robert Witzeman, Mrs. Verna Stevens, Secretary, Lloyd Shuttleworth, Treasurer, Screen Tour Chairman, Lloyd Shuttleworth, Field Trip Chairman - Ellis Jones, Program Chairman Mrs. Otto S. Mayer, Conservation, Mrs. Scott Spaw, Membership Mrs. James A. Crawford, Education Mr. Hal Perry, Public Relations, Mr. Jack Wetmore. The status of the Roadrunner was not brought before the meeting for a determining vote and the membership of MAS will therefore declare its choice. Your present Editor has offered to continue to serve.

The June meeting will be held Tuesday, June 1st, 6:00 P.M., at SQUAW PEAK PARK, with Hopi Room 1 and 2 reserved by our program chairman, Mr. Mayer, with a POT LUCK dinner to be served. Installation of the elected officers and chairmen will be had at this meeting, and members may decide on any other action they deem pertinent. Program Chairman Mayer has arranged for a most interesting speaker for the evening, in the person of the well known architect, Paul Van Cleave, who had much to do with the landscaping and building sites and structures in Squaw Peak Park. The business meeting will be important to every member of our Society, and each member is urged to be present to voice their sentiment and ideas for the future.

FIELD TRIPS....

The summer months are upon us, and no field trips are scheduled for these months.

APRIL 14 FIELD TRIP TO COON BLUFF...

Although a thick haze of blowing dust was covering most of Arizona the cloudy over-cast skies kept temperatures comfortably cool all day, never rising above 85°, and eighteen people came out to see a total of 64 birds. The trip included Coon Bluff, Phon Suev Sutton (confluence of Salt & Verde Rivers) and Granite Reef Dam Area. An osprey delighted the birders flying overhead at Coon Bluff and again one seen at C... A particularly high number of Cheet-tailed Towhees were observed --- in the Salt River, evidently in migration.

Those birds seen at Coon Bluff and along... there were ELEVEN acres of Osprey (2), Sparrow Hawk, Gambel... (2), White-winged Dove... much time for gladdening the hearts of those who are... very swift to love, and make haste to be kind. H.F. AMIEL... seen noted that various branches of 'environment' and 'conservation' seem to be without co-ordination in many parts of the country, and they seem to be without a unified TARGET, or basic concept of what is desired to achieve. There is evidently a need for co-ordination and long term goals for which purposeful direction is needed.

New proposed cities and sub-divisions, looming on the horizon, need to study the environmental impact their building will have on the community such as disposal of waste material, scenic character, and the hopes and wishes of adjoining municipalities.

Past-President Titzak has proposed forming a new constitution for our Society and has appointed a committee of three - Incoming president, Marshall Whitmore - Robert Witzeman, and Peggy Spaw to work on the revision. MAS members will have the final say of approval or disapproval and may also suggest features they desire.

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Vice-Preas: Dr. Robert Witzeman, 4619 E. Arcadia Lane, Phoenix, AZ 85018 Tel. 959-0052
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Committee Chairmen:
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Field Trip: Mr. Ellis Jones, 1070 E. 21st Ave., Phoenix, AZ 85006 Tel. 955-5242
Conservation: Mr. Scott Spaw, 1505 E. Cheery Lynn, Phoenix, AZ 85014 Tel. 265-2349
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A new format and logo for our newsletter!

THE ROADRUNNER

THE ROADRUNNER is published monthly excepting for July and August by the Maricopa Audubon Chapter of the National Audubon Society.


Subscriptions: $3.00 per year. Lloyd Shuttleworth, 377 N. 4th Ave., Phoenix, Az. Telephone: 254-8721

Monthly Meetings: First Tuesday in the months of October through May, 8:00 P.M. at: Goettl Brothers Auditorium, 2005 E. Indian School Rd.

* * * * *

President - MR. MARSHALL WHITEMIRE, 653 N.Drew St.,W. #A, Mesa, Az. 85201 264-0621
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Committee Chairmen
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Field Trip- MR. ELLIS JONES, P.O. Box 217, Cave Creek, Az. 488-3393
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CAP WILL INUNDATE THIS BALD EAGLE NEST...See page 5.
Conservation Chair Peggy Spaw alerts our chapter to the CAP dams

FEATURE ARTICLE

OCTOBER 1971

The proposed Orme Dam, located close to Phoenix, at the confluence of the Salt and Verde Rivers is part of the chain of water control imperatives that go with the Central Arizona Project, the CAP.

As a refresher: The CAP is simply a plan to import Colorado River Water into the central Arizona area. Central Arizona, in rough boundary, means that this water project relates to the Phoenix area at the North, and the Tucson area at the South. The Central Arizona Project was authorized by Congress in 1965. (See attached CAP map)

The Orme Dam will be an impediment to the Verde and Salt Rivers that will halt the free-flow of these rivers and change the ecosystem that has established and flourished banksides for centuries. The waters of the Verde, a particularly thrifty river, hold large mouth bass, channel catfish and carp. The Arizona Game and Fish Department plants 20,000 trout a year below Stewart Mountain Dam, and muledeer, javelina, cottontail, bobcats and coyotes relate their daily existence to the free-flow of the river within this proposed Orme Dam floodsite.

For those who have used the region for varied bird observations, recognize that this area which is only 25 miles from town, via the Beeline Highway, is irreplaceable. It bears the only remaining large stand of mature cottonwoods and mesquite thickets along the Salt. Palo Verdes, Ironwoods and streamside annuals all make places of retreat and nourishment for creatures ranging from anthropods, through birds up to large game animals.

The cattail marshes make a rare stopover for wintering birds, particularly for rails.

Other birds whose nesting and presence in our environment will be disturbed or completely eliminated by the Orme floodsite include the BALD EAGLE; LEAST BITTERN; GREEN HERON; YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO; BELL'S VIREO; YELLOW WARBLER; YELLOWTHROAT WARBLER; SUMMER TANAGER; and the BLUE CROSSBILL.

The Orme Dam site has its "cousins" on the drawingboards too: Buttes Dam on the Gila River; the Charleston Dam on the San Pedro River and Hooker Dam, on the Gila River in New Mexico. The network of aqueducts and the thermal power plant that is projected to pump water from Lake Havasu into Granite Reef Aqueduct, thence into the Orme Reservoir, complete the complex. (See map)

Your conservation committee refers you to the map entitled LOWER COLORADO RIVER.

At its September meeting, the Arizona Conservation Council heard the Regional Director (Region 3) discuss the condition of the Lower Colorado River with its history of dredging and phreatophyte removal. In summary, the Director stated that he believed dredging and manipulation of the river had reached its saturation point. It is the aim of his organization to begin a program of restraint on dredging and restoration of vegetation, particularly in the Cibola and Imperial sections as indicated on this map. Of course, "revegetation" would be a matter of generations, and a matter of experiment too. Maybe they'll succeed and maybe they won't. From the standpoint of wildlife health and preservation, most of the damage is long-since done. Peggy Spaw
Our chapter’s newsletter has been greatly enriched by Jim Burns’ cover bird portraits and photo quizzes.